FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1889.

London office of The Sun, Hotel Victoria, Northum-berland avenue. Address Astrus Brissans, sole repre-mitative in London.

Interoceanic Canal Schemes.

Ever since the discovery of the Pacific Ocean at the Isthmus of Panama by Vasco NUNEZ DE BALBOA, the subject of a canal to connect the Atlantic with it has more or less frequently claimed the attention of the world. Surveys have been made at various times and places, and under various auspices, and yet it is safe to say that with the exception of the general line of the Panama Railroad, upon which the DE LESSEPS canal is located, and the route through Lake Nicaragua, the whole subject remains pretty nearly as much in the dark as if no surveys had ever been made.

The Panama route was favored by the first chief engineer of the Panama Railroad, a gentleman long resident in Central America. and of most excellent judgment, and this raises a strong presumption in its favor. To be sure it was adopted by M. DE LESSEPS and his friends without sufficient deliberation, but that is their affair and not ours.

The Nicaraguan route has been favored of more enthusiasm, perhaps, than experience in such matters. At last they have, by the aid of an industrious and enterprising lobby, about induced Congress to give them a charter, and there is no particular harm in that, though the public interests might have been more fully safeguarded; and it is far from certain that the canal can be built for any such sum as is estimated by Engineer Meno-CAL, or that it will not encounter first and last as many difficulties as have beset the Panama Canal.

Central American Governments are notoriously unstable and dishonest, the climate is enervating, the soil is treacherous, and what lies beneath it is almost entirely unknown. All the conditions even in the most favored localities are unfavorable for carrying on great industrial undertakings, and all valuable experience bearing on the matter in hand, namely, that of the Suez and Panama Canals, goes to show that the original estimates, no matter how carefully prepared, should be multiplied by three, four, or even five to bring them within the bounds of actual cost.

In view of the obvious fact that a complete and systematic survey of the Isthmian regions of Central America has never been made-and when it is made, as it surely will besome day, it may reveal a very much better location than either the Panama or Nicaraguan route-the part of prudence would seem to be for American citizens to go slow with the new undertaking.

Besides, it is universally admitted that a tide-level canal is much to be preferred to one with locks, and until the Panama Canal is absolutely and conclusively abandoned, and it is demonstrated beyond all question that no other route exists or can be found for a tide-level canal, Americans should be in no hurry to invest their money in this latest Nicaraguan Canal scheme.

The Beginning of Reform.

It now seems probable that the Board of Education will adopt, with some modification, the reforms in the system of examination and marking which were recommended by its special committee. But that will be only the beginning of the work of reform needed in the public schools.

The voluntary association formed to inquire into the operation of our school system, sent to the Commissioners on Wednesday a memorial indicating the general direction which this further and thorough reform should take. They pointed out, as we have done so often, that the great demand is for primary instruction, and that nlone. Of the 150,000 registered pupils in the schools during 1887, there were 95,000 in the primary schools and only 55,000 in the grammar schools. Of those in the grammar schools, too, the great majority are in the lower grades, where the instruction is really primary. Not less than 60,000 children leave he schools annually before they have reached 12 years of age. Yet the chief expenditure is upon the grammar schools, and they receive much the greater attention. The youngsters under primary instruction have fewer teachers proportionately, they are packed together more closely, and the accommodations for them are generally inferior. In school buildings containing both primary and grammar departments there may be less room allotted to 1,000 primary pupils than to 500 in the higher grade.

Though the great majority of the children must leave school at a very early age, the instruction of the whole number is regulated with reference to the progress of the few who can remain long enough to pass through the highest grade. The primary school is made the nursery for the grammar school, and the grammar school the nursery for the colleges. As a consequence, the many are sent away with an incomplete ciementary education. They receive no thorough instruction in any subject, but are overtaxed to obtain a smattering of knowledge in the variety of studies required as a preparation for the higher grades, upon which they can never enter. Accordingly, our schools are inferior to the elementary schools of France and Germany in the actual results accomplished. They work children harder, and yet give them a less thorough and valuable education.

In other words, our whole school system has been perverted from its true and original purpose in order to carry out the ambitious schemes of a few men who were anxious for collegiate honors. The mischief began with the transformation of the old free academy, or high school, into a regulation college, and it was carried to its full development when the normal school for the training of women teachers was changed into a college also. There were already colleges enough in town for everybody desiring their instruction, and all of them were eager for more students. whether they paid for their tuition or not; and yet two more were set up to be supported by public taxation. Private endowment and religious zeal always take care of the higher education in this country, even to the extent of multiplying colleges beyond the need of them; but for primary education the State, in the interest of its own welfare. must make large provisions, else the great mass of the children would grow up in dangerous illiteracy. That is the one justification of general taxation for public schools. The public safety demands that elementary

The reform which the Board of Education needs to bring about will, therefore, never be complete until all the schools are made primary schools for the most elementary instruction only. The vast majority of the children want no more than that, and yet they are defrauded of it under the present system. They suffer from the moral and inliectual damage done by superficial instruction, by sham knowledge, and the fail-

instruction be provided at the public cost.

oughness, the only thorough test of sound education, whether it be higher or lower.

A Sunday Paper in London.

Mr. James Gordon Bennett has started a Sunday Herald in London, and we infer from the amount of noise which has attended its appearance that it prospers. The Pall Mall Gazette has objurgated the enterprise; a howling but most inconsiderable and cheaply sensational pulpiteer named Hawkis has denounced it in terms of great violence; and from numbers of staid and stupid newspapers, from windy persons of exalted state. from bumbledom at large, and from all the cranks of high and low degree, there is a storm of disapproval and condemnation. Here, in New York, our esteemed conteniporary, Col. ELLIOTT FITCH SHEPARD, has no language too severe for it. Thus we see that the project is begun under the most propitious and promising conditions. We have always held that a lively and in-

our esteemed contemporary, Mr. BENNETT is sure to put forth, could not fail to succeed every day in the week in London, and especially on Sunday. There is nothing in the way of an intellectual production that is more stupid than a London newspaper. It is not a newspaper at all. It doesn't print the news. It is a dull, heavy, platitudinous. gaseous commodity, unsatisfying, unsympathetic, and inadequate. It is absurd to say late by a party of American gentlemen, with that it is the kind of paper that English people want and that they will have no other. English people are like any other people. They have heads, hearts, and stomachs, and their emotions are all in the usual places. What stirs us stirs them; and the chief serious ethnological discrepancy between us is founded in the fact that we are better fed. Besides, we have always noted that when an English editor. by an inadvertence, or by an aberration of some kind, or by collusion with an American, printed in his paper a matter of command-

ing news, such as we daily print in THE

Sun the same has unfailingly attracted in-

tense attention and profoundly moved the

telligently conducted newspaper, such as

whole British public. So that, as it has always seemed to us, the conditions in London are in the main identical with the conditions in New York, but that the people there are deprived of real flesh and blood newspapers because of the insularity of intellect of the men professing and controlling British journalism. their deference to traditions, particularly the traditions of caste and rank, and by reason of the general hidebound inertia and stubbornness which they call conservatism. We are not surprised that Mr. BENNETT has broken the ice, and that the whole fabric of bumbledom and veal-headed complacency has been shocked and cries out aloud against the innovation. Let him swing a lusty flail! We think he is sure of success, and we heartily wish him the largest possible measure of it. Moreover, we are quite sure Americans will not have any cause to be ashamed of Mr. BENNETT'S London news-

Nonsense in Legislation.

paper.

The purposes of our Albany legislators are often inscrutable, but never more so than when questions involving additional government for the city of New York are to be determined. Thus chapter 720 of the Laws of 1887 provides for the publication once a year in some journal of this town of a detailed list of the hotels of the metropolis, with a statement of the location of each. It is a sort of Strangers' Guide, territorially arranged, and containing such information as may be of interest and benefit to wayfarers and travellers as well as to our great floating population.

That (in conformity with chapter 720) such a list, verified and accurate, should make its appearance at the beginning of the new year is a fact not devoid of interest, for it will augment, in the minds of fools especially, the confidence they may already feel in the watchful guardianship of our legisla-, tors up the Hudson, while to others it will seem but a prejude to the publication by public authority of shopping and sporting guides, dry goods directories, theatrical bulletins, stock and bond quotations, base ball scores, and Guttenburg and Sheepshead Bay racing records.

The law makers whose wisdom framed chapter 720 were actuated, no doubt, by no such eleemosynary or educational purpose. but whatever their intention the hotel list has made its appearance. What seems to be a most unfortunate and deplorable circumstance connected with its publication. is the fact that the journal chosen to contain it is our hitherto unimpeachable and exemplary contemporary, the City Record. This official journal has preserved, through an era of much newspaper rivalry and rampant sensationalism, an attitude of punctilious adhesion to its standard of a high moral aim, choice literary diction, lofty indifference to trivial disputes, and chivalrous refusal to meddle with the orderly determination, in other quarters, of pressing

We are, remembering this, as much surprised to encounter in the strictly conservative columns of our official centemporary the hotel guide required by chapter 720, as we would be to discover in the columns of Col. Shepard's Mail and Express a sensational report of some point of sporting intelligence. While we are not able altogether to commend the new departure of our City Hall contemporary, we shall not withhold the acknowledgment of praise for the copiousness, accuracy, and deft arrangement of the list it publishes, and for the ingenuity displayed in the collating of the names. Even in publishing this official Stranger's Guide the high professional purpose which guides exalts the Record is not wanting. With great fairness and impartiality the list contains the names of such little-known hostelries as "The Magnolia," "The Six Nations," "Barney," the "Miner's Arms," "The Glen Island," and the "Deutsches Gasthaus," It is of course, always a pleasure to commend the enterprise of a contemporary, especially when it is about embarking in a new field of usefulness and instruction. But it is questionable if the public at large, accustomed as they are to the serried statistics, the unimaginative public reports, and the unobjectionable but no less accurate legal advertisements of the City Record, will greet with favor this excursion of its literary favorite, hitherto entirely exemplary, but now no longer unemotional.

The Surrogate's Term of Office, There is a proposition before the Legislature to lengthen the official term of the Surrogate of the county of New York from six years to fourteen years. It is embodied in a bill which has been introduced into the State Senate by Mr. EUGENE S. IVES of this city. This bill applies, of course, only to persons who shall hereafter be elected to the office of

Surrogate. Probably the attention of Senator Ives has not been called to the fact that the measure is one of very doubtful constitutionality. Indeed, to us it seems squarely in conflict with the provisions of the State Constitution. In the article of the Constitution relative two to fourteen years of imprisonment. We

ure to inculcate in them the habit of thor- | to the judiciary, which was adopted by the people in 1869, it was provided that the county courts then existing should be continued, and that the Judges thereof then in office should hold their offices until the expiration of their respective terms. "Their successors shall be chosen by the electors of the county for the term of six years," the Constitution goes on to say; and, further, "the County Judge shall also be Surrogate of his county; but in counties having a population exceeding 40,000 the Legislature may provide for the election of a separate officer to be Surrogate, whose term of office shall be the same as that of the County Judge."

If these provisions do not mean that the term of office of the Surrogates of the several counties of this State is to be six years, and no longer, we are at a loss to understand their meaning. And how, in view of the fact that the tenure is thus fixed by the Constitution, the Legislature can lengthen the term by statute, is a problem which we refer to the consideration of the lawyers in the Senate and Assembly at Albany.

He Can Run for Congress.

We notice some talk about the political future of Mr. CLEVELAND. And why shouldn't he have a political future, if he wants one? His political past has been sufficiently remarkable to justify any expectation.

Mr. CLEVELAND cannot again be the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, but there is no reason why he shouldn't run for Congress. He is going to practise law in this town, and we dare say either the County Democracy or Tammany Hall would put him up in some district where success would be probable. But, in order to attain this distinction the candidate will have to pay the regular assessments, and these vary according to circumstances from \$5,000 to \$20,000. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS was a great member of Congress after he had been an unsuccess-

It has been made evident this week during the visit of David B. Hill to Washington that the Governor of New York has many political and personal friends in the capital of the United States, and that they are not confined to the Democratic party or any faction thereof.

ful President; and perhaps GROVER CLEVE-

LAND may be another.

Our valued contemporary, the Boston Pilot, has some interesting observations on the customs duty of thirty per cent. which is imposed upon modern works of art sent here by foreign artists. This the Pilot condemns as "simply the unthinking, unreasoning misapplication of trade law to art by men who know little and care less about it."

Ever since this duty was first imposed it has been the subject of unsparing criticism, and bills for its abolition have at various times been introduced in Congress.

When last year Mr. CLEVELAND, Mr. MILLS, and the free trade party made their great demonstration in favor of smashing the tariff, it was, of course, expected that this objectionable duty upon works of art would be one of the things they would first strike at. But, instead of any such reformation. Mr. Mills left the duty untouched, and the reason of his so doing seems rather comical in the light of the present day.

Works of art are supposed to be a luxury o the rich, and the proposition which our free trade theorists had adopted was that duties should be taken off from articles which are consumed by the poor, and that all luxuries which are consumed by the rich should be taxed heavily. That is the reason why this duty of thirty per cent, upon foreign works of art was treated with such reverence by our sham reformers.

A bill of tremendous proportions and intolerable molestation has been presented in the Legislature by Assemblyman FLAHERTY. It provides that the Dairy Commissioner of this State and his agents shall have power, at any time, "to enter or open any store, bakery, hotel, tavern, boarding house, restaurant, saloon, lunch counter, place of public entertainment, car, boat, package, yessel, barrel, box, tub, or can containing or believed to contain dairy produets used or served or intended to be sold, exposed for sale, used, or served." This wonderful bill is now before the Legislature of the Empire State of the United States of North

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Telegraph tells how he has recently been shocked by the appearance of President CLEVELAND, who looks as though he were stricken by ill health. "Rolls of flabby flesh." the correspondent says, "have gathered about his face and under his chin, and his whole body has accumulated an immense amount of shapeless and useless fat." "He must have gained 50 pounds in weight and relaxed half the tension of his muscles." The correspondent gives it as his opinion that this bodily condition of Mr. CLEVELAND is owing to the fact that he takes no exercise, and that, in consequence, his blood has become thick and stagnant under the adipose growth. There is no doubt that men of the frame and habit of Mr. CLEVELAND gain advantages by taking plenty of exercise in the open air. They should take tours afoot every day, and not be afraid of running a couple of miles at times: they should take horseback rides, and not be afraid of trotting or galloping when they are mounted on a good steed; they should indulge in athletic sports that call out their physical powers and love of rivalry; they should practise swimming in baths, not too cold for the season, and rub themselves well with rough towels. In short, they should bring into play all their muscles, from toe to crown, and keep up the play as long as they can do so without being jaded. Steady pursuit of a course of life of this kind will very surely be beneficial to their system within a year, and they will find enjoyment in it, as they go along, far higher than that of the logy and the lazy. At the same time, of course, they must guard against overindulgence in the pleasures of the table. and not allow themselves to be overweighted with cares.

Our distinguished fellow citizen, the Rev. Dr. Satterler, who is one of the most crudite theologians and eloquent preachers in the American Episcopal Church, has received a well-deserved honor in being unanimously elected to the office of Bishop of Michigan by the clergy and laity of that diocese. But the Church in New York cannot well spare such a man as Dr. SATTEBLEE, who is fertile in good works, beloved by his parishioners, and has a reat field of labor in the city. We learn by despatch from Detroit that there are doubts of his acceptance of the Bishopric of Michigan and there are many people here, outside of his own denomination, who would regret his departure from the rectory of Calvary Church.

The Legislature of Indiana has at last taken steps to suppress the mendacious organization that has won infamy in the State upder the title of "White Caps." It is high time to put a stop to the horrible operations of these lynchers. We have had hundreds of depatches about their atrocities within the past two or three years. They have perpetrated murder and arson; they have maimed and harried their victims; they have scourged the helpless and have offered indignities to women. They have done these things under the pretext of enforcing morality outside of the law; but there is no doubt that their deeds have generally been instigated by personal malice, and that the innocent have often suffered at their hands. It has looked as though the officers of the law in many parts of the West were in league with them, or at least winked at their illegal proceedings, for it is rare that arrest has followed their crimes. The new law of Indiana provides for the prompt arrest of White Caps, for their trial as rioters and conspirators. and for the infliction of penalties ranging from

trust that the authorities of the State will see to the enforcement of this law in every case of

We are not surprised that the Philadelphia Press should refer to a distinguished gentleman who was formerly a citizen of that town:

"When Mr. CLEVELAND settles down in New York to practise law, the people of that town will begin to look forward eagerly to the time when he and sliver-tongued DANIAL DORNIERT appear in a case as opposing coun-sel. It will be a thrilling spectacle."

The first time that Mr. CLEVELAND meets Mr. DOUGHERTY after his relief from the Presidential office, we hope he will make it the special occasion for some suitable appreciation of the eloquent eulogy which Mr. Doughenry delivered when putting his name in nomination before the St. Louis Convention. As yet we believe the restraints of official dignity have been rigid enough to suppress the usual impulses of decent gratitude, and prevent Mr. CLEVELAND from expressing himself as he will doubtless do when he meets the silver-tongued orator as a proud brother of the New York bar.

STANLEY has trudged for the third time

ever the weary road from the Congo to the

Nile, simply because he was compelled at last to do himself work he had intrusted to others. This has been his usual experience in Africa. When he found LIVINGSTONE his white assistants proved to be drunken and worthless fellows who did not hold out half way to Tanganyika. On his second trip two of his three white comrades died in the early part of the journey, and the third before it was completed. During his five years' work founding stations along the Congo he complained bitterly of the inefficiency of his subordinates, and he was very indignant when, after an absence of months on the Upper Congo, he found upon his return to the lower river dilapidated stations, disaffected garrisons, and general gloom and grumbling. Of the scores of white men who served under him he singled out only a half dozen or so for special commendation in his latest book. The African traveller is evidently

born, not made. The touch of King Frost that we have had here within the past two days has been slight in comparison with his demonstrations in other parts of the State. At Lockport on Wednesday the mercury was ten degrees below zero, and a blizzard raged. At Oswego on the same day the raffrond trains were blockaded with snow. At Poughkeepsie the ice in the Hudson was fast and seven inches thick. At Buffalo several members of a sleighing party were frostbitten, and one of them was frozen to death. From other quarters of the State we hear of flerce snow storms, wild blizzards, frozen rivers, and people perishing by cold. In the city our wintry experiences, thus far, have been rather haleyon, and, if there were no salaried weather prophets, we would predict the continuance of tolerable weather till the coming of genial spring.

The bill introduced in the Pennsylvania Legislature forbidding one man to "treat" another, intoxicants, of course, being the article tabooed, can have but one result if passed, Hereafter the guests on such occasions will take it out in cash. The barkeeper will still set 'em up, but each man will pay his individual charge and collect from his generous legally regulated host. Wonderful are the suggestions of modern legislation.

MRS. CLEVELAND'S FUTURE.

Questions Raised by Mr. Cleveland's Decision to Become a Resident of New York, From the Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4.-Everybody is sorry for poor Mrs. Cleveland. Society says she will be unhappy as the wife of a plodding New York lawyer. Mr. Cleve-land is a piodder, and everybody knows it. He cares absolutely nothing for society, and those persons who know him well declare he will be a greater plodder than ever as an office counsellor. His habits are now so well formed that he will not find it easy to change them. A man who for seven years has sat down to his desk at f o'clock, not to leave it except on rare occasions and for brief intervals till after midnight, is not the one to be-come an easygoing lawyer and a proper gallant for young wife. Mr. Cleveland is dreadfully slow and practical. Mrs. Cleveland is inclined to garety. As a girl she was jolly, and even under the repression of the White House has found opportunity for a few enjoyable, but of course entirely innocent larks with her young women friends. The question which the Mrs. Grundy of the capital is now asking herself has to do with Mrs. Cleveland's future. The truth is, and everybody who has been intimate at

hurt by the failure of the people to elect her husband to a second term than Cleveland himself. For several weeks after the disaster she was positively miserable. Mrs. Grundy says the President lacks the adaptability which his wife has displayed so conspicuously and charmingly, and predicts that as a New York lawyer he will plod and plod from early morning till late at night, the first man at his office and the last to leave it, while his young wife pines for attention and gayety.

At the same time there is a legitimate interfuture relationship of the Whitneys and Clevelands The two families have been intimate. But about two months ago a small cloud came between them, and it has never been lifted. There was no repture, no actual cessation of intercourse, but Mrs. Whitney and Mrs. Cleveland are no longer bosom friends. They do not exchange small confidences. This condition was not reached by means of an explosion. It came slowly and almost imperceptibly as a result of Mrs. Whitney's in-terview in defence of the domestic character of the President. Mrs. Cleveland, though inclined to think her husband's champion had said just a little too much, was not disturbed. But Mr. Cleveland was much dis-turbed. He did not like it at all. He made no com-

the White House knows it, Mrs. Cleveland was more

like it. Some of the President's closest advisers knew he did not like it, and, taking their cue from him, have made some remarks now and then. This is all, but it was enough to bring about a coolness between the social leader of the Administration and the first lady.

Thus the people who delight in small talk are wondering what Mrs. Whitney will do for Mrs. Cleveland when they are both residents of New York, and how much Mr. Cleveland will be willing to have done for her. Mrs. Whitney belongs to the 400, goes along with the Yanderbillin, Astors, Depews, and "shepards. Mr. Cleveland cannot expect to gain entree to this sacred circle on his account. Will he be willing to be tucked under the arm of Mrs. Whitney, who, as Senator Ingails says furnished him a certificate of good character, and on her guarantee gain access, along with his beautiful

plaints or criticism, he indulged in no reproaches, he

simply did not like it. Mrs. Whitney learned he did not

wife, to the social sanctum sanctorum ! A Mutch for Blamnrck

From a Washington Despatch "If Germany wants to renow the conference," and Scuator Frye, "let Prince Bismarck send his agent here. It is not for us to go to Berlin in search of him. But if a conference is to be held in Berlin, I want to see Ben Butler sent over there to represent us He would be a match for Bismarck."

The Political Hub, Prom the Albany Frening Journal.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—The politics of Washington is the politics of Albany twenty four hours old. There is more concrete knowledge of political affairs at the capital of New York State than any other place in

the country, Indianapolis and Washington not excepted

The People's Paper. From the Oil City Derrick.

The Sunday edition of THE NEW YORK SUS is a journalistic paragon.

The attempts of the other great newspapers to excel it, and cut into its fremendous business have always been conspicuous failures and doubtless always will be. THE SCS, not only on Sunday, but every day in the

Democrats Welcome a Democrat. From the Washington Star.

Not more than one-sixth of the Democrats were in the House to day. The reat were off paying their respects to dov. Hill Suicide of Gov. Lec's Secretary.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 7.—Capt. James E. Waller, private fecretary to Gov. Lee, was found dead in his office at the State Capitol building this morning with a buillet hole in the right side of his head. A smith & Wesson pistol lay on the floor. Capt. Waller was 12 years of age and a mative of Stafford County. No cause is assigned for the deed.

A Centenarian's Reception. Augusta. Me., Feb. 7.—In the House of Representatives to day, Eithu Sievens of Beigrade, 101 years of age, held a brief reception, both branches of the House taking a recess for the purpose. Stevens is remarkably well preserved, and is the father of twenty two children and a pensioner of the war of 1812.

Bishop-elect Satterice Not Yet Notified. The Rev. Dr. Henry Y. Satteries of Calvary Protestant Episcopal church said last night that he had not received official notice of his election to be Hishop of Michigan, and was not prepared to say whether he would accept the bishoppic or not.

FURNISHING ARMS TO THE SAMOANS.

The Record of the Germans who Accuse Capt, Leary of Alding the Natives. WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 .- The charge brought in a Hamburg newspaper that our naval officers, particularly Capt Leary of the Adams. supplied Matanfa's forces with ammunition, is

supported yet by any evidence. A law passed in Samoa a little more than eight years ago forbids the sale or gift of arms and munitions of war, except for or to the Samoan Government, on its written order designating the quantity to be furnished. Mr George H. Bates, Special Agent of the State Department in 1886, officially reported to Mr. Bayard that the only strength possessed by Tamasese's forces, at that time in insurrection against King Malieton, was derived from the violation of this law, and added that "It is undoubted that the sale of arms to the insurgents is conducted principally by the German company of which Mr. Weber is the head." A piece of evidence on this point is the correspondence which Mr. Bates reproduces in one of the appendices to his report, beginning with a letter from Matietos, in July, 1886, to the German Consul-General:

To German Consult-General:
Your Excentance, Suc. I and my Government have
ecoived most correct accounts, the very truth Raelf, of
he sales of gams and atomination for war by Mr. Weber
and his agents to a portion of the Samoan people, known as the refreis.

On this account I do most sincerely protest against the action of Mr. Weber and other foreign merchanis, with the greatest humility before your Excellency, the representative of his Majesty the Emperor of Germany, as such action is a direct violation of the law made by the Namona Government at Multimu. Oct. 25, 1880.

shall be pleased to hear that you have succeeded is suppressing the conduct of which I have just been writing. The recipion of Dr. Stueber admitted "the selling of arms by the German merchants," and said that he was "working continually with them in order that they may cease from this business." So it appears that the very offence now charged without the corroboration of proof against our naval officers was admitted by the German Consul to be true of his own countrymen less than three years ago.

As a contrast, the action taken four years previous on the complaint made by Mr. Weber's predecessor, Mr. Goddefroy, may be cited. He had declared that an American trader named Nelson was selling arms in violation of the law. Our acting Consul, Mr. Alvord, caused Nelson to be brought before him at once, and on his acknowledgment that he had sold arms in ignorance of the law he was fined \$50 and costs. All this is set forth in enclosures accompanying the report of Mr. Bates. The latter also gives instances in which Weber, after laving been largely engaged in this traffic, was stopped by the German Commissioner, Mr. Travers, "It was apparent to me," says Mr. Bates, upon the clearest evidence, that the sale of arms to the forces at Lulumoega and those sympathizing with them was carried on extensively while we were there. I knew of the landing of cases of rifles, of their sale without effort at concealment." If the German Consul in 1886 had applied to his own countrymen the remoty which the American Consul had applied to Mr. Nelson four years earlier, there would have been no further unlawful selling of arms.

Still another proof of what the Germans were about was furnished in the following affidavit of a British subject made at the British Consultor.

L.G.P. Pritchard, Junior, make oath and asy that from the 3th of August 1884 up to the present time.

suinto:

L.G.P. Pritchard, Junior, make eath and say that from the 20th of August, 1638, up to the present time, the German Brin of Beutchen Handels und Plantegen, Ac., have, through their agent, P. Jensen, at saislite ou says, sold frearms to the natives of cames. The natives do not take the arms away, but put their names on them and pay for them by degrees in Copra, some have already haif paid the value of the rifles. names on them and pay for them by degrees in corrasome have already half paid the value of the rifles.

It is clear enough that most of the arms
supplied unlawfully to the natives in
Samoa have been sold by the Germans. The British have a law of their
own, forbidding them under penalties to
sell munitions of war to Polynesian natives.
The Americans have had less temptation to do
this, since they have always been friendly to the
Samoan Government, which under the law had
the right to purchase arms. It is true that these
forces of King Malieton are now called rebels
by the Germans, but they presumably have the
same arms which they possessed when Malieton was in power only a year and a half age,
It is also probable that Matanfa, who is of the
same family or party as Tamasese, has bought
over some of the latter's original friends to the
patriot cause.

One area of Officers, know well enough whot

Our naval officers know well enough what Our naval officers know well enough what they can and cannot do, and no presumption of going beyond the law is justified against them, especially when brought by the German traders, whose own deliberate violations of the law are attested by their consular authorities,

MILLIONS FOR PLUNDER, NOT A CENT

The Connecticut Mutual Life Management. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It is with astonishment, as well as with regret, that the people of Connecticut notice that the great Mutual Life Insurance Company of Hartford looks on, apparently, with calm indifference while the stealing of half a million of money is

consummated by one of its trusted agents. But these feelings have changed to indignaion and distrust when it is seen that not only was the company warned two years ago that Moore was robbing them, but that even now, after the full extent of the steal is supposed to after the full extent of the steal is supposed to be known, the company, for some reason not definitely known, refuses to prosecute the thief or to take any steps for his apprehension. Judging from the expressions of some policy holders who are looking about for means by which the real facts, which are not yet known, may be discovered and the guilty punished, they seem uncertain as to the proper steps to take in beginning their investigations. Does not the indifference with which the offi-Does not the indifference with which the offi-cers of the commany, from the President and Sec-retary down, treat this great robbery, indicates that, if the owners of this stolen money wish to ascertain its extent and who are implicated in it, every official of the company should be made to tell all he knows about it?

A SUFFERER BY THE CHARTER OAK. New Haven, Feb. 6.

SUALL THE STATE REGULATE THE PRICE OF LABOR?

Proposition of a Complete and Comprebensive Nature.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: How would t suit the majority of the people should it be left to th State to enact a law regulating the price of labor? It already has men in its employ, carpenters, masons, and abovers, and they are paid a stipulated price per day and the hours are named which constitute a day's work This city has its officials and hires street laborers, and the price is regulated and you have no fear of a strike. Now, could not this whole thing be regulated by a State law making the price of a day's work for corpora tions or individuals a certain rate, and no lower, say for a year? No higher wages could be asked for by work people, but the employer could give as much more as he might desire. This would practically kill strikes and

The Night Before Larry was Stretched More Information.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your issue of Feb. 3 a correspondent John Derrig, raises the question of the authorship of the borribly grotesque Irish poem. "The Night Before Larry was Stretched." In his interesting discussion of the subject Mr. Derrig has apparently emitted the name of the accepted au-thor by reason of unfamiliarity. My friend, Mr. A. M. thor by reason of unfamiliarity. My friend, Mr. A. M. Williama, the scholarly editor of the Providence Journal, in his volume, "The Poets and Poetry of Ireland, states that Father Prout facetiously ascribed the authorship to Denh Burrowes of the Anglican Cathedrai of St. Finoars at Cork out of a spirit of humor. He "conceived it a good Joke to father some utterly incongruous stricte upon a notable person. The real author, Mr. Williams states, was William Maher of Waicrford, a vagabond with a distorted annie, known in Ireland as. 'Hurfoot Bill.' Maher was one of the well-known hedge poets. He claimed the authorship during his life, and it was not disputed by the literary coterie of Jublin. In accepting Maher's claim. Mr. Williams says: "The internal evidence would go to show that it is the production of one of the class which it commemorates and if it has a more compact form and more accuracy in metre and rhyme than they usually have, it is merely an extraordinary specimen."

New Yong, Yeb. 1.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The au-thorship of "The Night Before Larry was Stretched" (i.e., hanged) probably never will be clearly known It was jocularly ascribed by Father Prout (who turned It was jocularly ascribed by Father Prout (who turned the song into French) to the Rev. Robert Burrowes an Anglican clergyman of Cork, and it has been attributed to John Philipot Curran. Sed Lysaght (who is believed to have written "Kitty of Coleraine"), and some others. Its only actual claimant was one William Maher of Waterford, who produced sales one William Maher of Waterford, who produced sales maker maintained that the song rather and during his life, at least, his alleged proprietary interest in it was not disputed.

D. C. Naw York, Feb. 5.

The Sallors' Strike at Liverpool. From the London Datly Telegraph.

There were more exciting scenes at the Liverpool landing stage yesterday, as a result of the strike of reamen and fremen. Beyeral men arrived at the tage to proceed in one of the steamers as substitutes or others who would not take the wages offered, when hey were surrounded by the strikers who deliberately they were surrounded by the strikers who deliberately seized the effects of the men and pitched them into the river. The men the miseives with difficulty secaped being roughly handled and also thrown into the river. By Warren Line steamer Kansas in Liverpool dock, was bearded on Friday night by a mis of quiolinat mee, who violently dragged ashore seven or eight men who had signed at the old rates.

1. was a time of immense public excitement, and the streets were filled with people discussing the latest news of the strike. First Citizen—There (triumphantly handing the paper to his neighbor.) That's the way the Morning Fishball looks at it. What do you think? Second Classes (gloomity)—I don's think; I'm a professional jurge.

DID BARRELS READ BOODLE?

Witnesses in the Market Stand Inquiry De-velop a Trick of Disappearing. Nobody answered yesterday at the investigation of the traffic in market privileges when Mr. Nicoll called for Dan Patterson and Dan Finn and Tubbs, Maloney, and Callahan. Commissioner Holahan explained that efforts to only a repetition of a previous accusation, unsubporns the witnesses had been made without success.

Jacob Gray of 73 Vesey street, a butter and choose man tostical that he had a stand that he would like to sell for \$500, and thought he would be able to sell it.

The much-complained-of Pidcock allotments of stands in Gansevoort Market were brought to the surface by the testimony of James M. Pidcock. Jr., the son of the Jersey Congressman. He has three stands and had eight in the old market. All but two of the eight he sublet, and he got \$374 a month net from them.

John F. Pidcock, a brother of the previous witness, who has three stands, testifled that he had gone into partnership with Samuel Nagel, who used to sublet a Pidcock stall in the old

who used to sublet a Pidcock stall in the old market.

Richard D. Brown, the standholder whose cash book erasure and entry of "barrels, \$75 interested Mr. Nicoll the other day, was recalled and asked to explain the erasure. He had no explanation to make, and said he could not tell why the word "barrels" was in a different hand from the other entries on the page.

Mr. Nicoll—I desire to surgest that this is matter of the highest importance. This witness has so conducted himself as to merit further attention. The evidence before us proves that he has committed wiffel and deliberate perform. We have the statements of two reputables men and his own suspicious testimous in reference to

mit the matter to the District Atterney in their behalf.

Commissioner Holahan agreed with Mr. Nicoll that the witness had rendered husself liable to grave suspicion, but said he did not wish to take the action suggested until the testimony of Mr. Brown's bookkeeper was heard to see if there was any explanation of the erasure. Mr. Brown was instructed to be on hand after the recess with his bookeeper. It is said that Mr. Nicoll has evidence that the entry "barrels, \$75." was originally "boodle, \$75."

said that Mr. Nicoll has evidence that the entry "barrols, \$75." was originally "boodle, \$75."

Mr. Brown did not appear after recess, nor did his bookkseper. A lawyer presented himself to represent Brown, and said he would try and have the witnesses there to-day.

"Humpy Hanover" is the nickname of Aaron Hanover, the next witness, who is equally well known as a County Democracy man and a liquor dealer. He seemed equally concerned as to his testimony and his oranges, for he holds a stand where he carries on a fruit business. He was afraid his oranges would freeze. He has been in the fruit business only since the opening of the new market. Mr. Nicoll wanted to find out whether Hanover got his stand because he was a County Democrat. The witness admitted that he was the kind of a man that city officials would all give an audience to, and that he had mentioned his desire to get a stand to Patrick Keenan, the County Democracy leader of the Twelfth district.

Charles J. Smith tostified that he got his stands without any trouble, and without paying for them, and seemed to regard the letter in his behalf of James W. Boyle, a County Democracy leader, as an unimportant incident. William H. Hoag, a Jerseyman, testified that his firm sold out two stands in the old market a year ago to Ege & Otts for \$1,000. One of the conditions was that Ege & Otts should succeed in getting, with Hoag & Co.'s assistance, two stands in the new market adjoining the six Hong & Co, had been able to secure on their own account. The witness said that he did not bother Comptroller Myers or any New York officials about the matter, but simply told his brother-in-law, Mayor Orestes Cleveland of Jersey City, what he wanted, and the firm got five stands instead of the four they applied for.

WHEE-EE-T! WHOOF! WHEET!

That Means "South" in Mr. Bulger's Musical System of Fog Whistles. Mr. Thomas E. Bulger, who plays the ympana in Daly's orchestra, is the inventor of musical system of fog signalling. He has contrived a chart for the boxing of the compass with the aid of musical notation. He proposes to have two steam whistles tuned in a third, fourth, fifth, or octave. The notes written with the heads upward denote the shrill whistle, and those with the heads downward the deep whistle. Combinations of the two whistles may be made to denote any course. The system can be used on sailing vessels by the employment of the ordinary steam whistles tuned to any intervaand worked by compressed air. the benefit of those not versed in the art of music Mr. Bulgor proposes a very simple chart

music Mr. Bulger proposes a very simple chart which conveys all the ideas of his musical plan of the compass, and can be understood by anybody after an hour's study. In this chart the signats are divided into two hemispheres, eastern and western, the signal for south in the western hemisphere being identical with that for north in the eastern lemisphere, with the difference that the pitch of the sounds is reversed, and so on through all the 32 points, there being 16 points in each of the hemispheres. Thus, north and south would be designated as follows:

The shrill notes are here designated by the heavy dashes above the dotted lines, and the sounds for the deep whistle by those below the dotted lines. The above system of signals can be worked by machinery on the principle of the organ barrel, in which, by a shifting lever, the barrel could be moved so as to give any of the above signals. Thus east would be indicated by one long blast of the heavy bass whistle, followed by a short toot of the high whistle and a short one from the deep whistle, the latter sounds being once repeated. For west the sounds would be reversed.

Mr. Bulger's invention will be presented to the Maritime Congress, which meets in this country this year.

Preacher Marquis's Description of the Waltz.

Rock Island, Ill., Feb. 4.—Another religious attack upon the social pleasures of the day was made from the pulpit of the Broadway Presbyterian Church by the Rev. W. S. Marquis lest night. "It is no accident," he said. "that the dance is what it is. It mingles the sexes in such closeness of personal approach and contact as is nowhere else tolerated in respectable society. It does this under a complexity of circumstances which conspire to heighten its impropriety. This picture may be seen: It is evening. The hour is late. There is a delicious intoxication of motion and music—perhaps of wine—in the blood. There is a strange, confused sense of being individually observed among so many, while yet the natural noble shame which guards the purity of man and woman alone together is absent. Such is the occasion and still hour after hour the dance whirls its gay kaleidoscope around, bringing hearts so near that they almost beat against each other, mixing the warm breath together, darting the fire of electricity between the meeting fingters, flushing face and lightening the eyes with a quick language." From the Chicago Herald.

ing face and lightening the eyes with a quick language.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch Confusion is sometimes caused by the indiscriminate use of the word typewriter to de-note either the operator or the machine. A case in point: Said Robinson to Smith the other day. "I've got a new typewriter."
Replied Smith anxiously: "Blonde or bru-

Replied Smith anxiously: "Blonds or brunette?"
And Robinson being called away at that moment, Smith was seen circulating the news that
Robinson was boasting of a pretty girl he had
employed as secretary. Finally the report
reached Robinson's wife, and she could not be
convinced that the new typewriter was a cold
piece of mechanism until she had visited her
musband's office and taken observations there
for herself.

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY. A novel scarf pin of French design has just appeared.

It is a singing bird of gay plumage. The apparatus con-sists of an India rubber bulb connected by a tube with the body of the bird, but concealed by the wearer's clothing. When the bulb is pressed it makes a wind current, which works a small whistle, and at the same time the bird's beak moves and his tail wiggles in a very natural way. To the spectator, who does not see the machinery, it is a very wonderful thing. Considering that the hird is only the size of an ordinary scarf pin, it

The procession of society women now on the stage is about to be lengthened by Mrs. Hadolph Allen, who for some time has been studying at the Paimer school of acting. Mrs. Alien is the eddest daughter of the inte Dudley Gregory, and is the comin of Mrs. Ely Goddard and Mrs. Lloyd Aspinwait. As Miss Gregory also was well known in society not only for her beautiful voice and her ballad singing but for her success in amateur theatricals. In the earlier period of Krs. Potter's ca-reer as an amateur Miss Gregory was her usual associate-that is to say, when it was Mrs. lotter a part to bring her audience to tears by the leading lady's woes Miss Gregory, in some light comedy, was depended on to woo the assembly to cheerfulness once more. Her last appearance before marriage was in a French opcretta before the Thursday Evening Club at Mr. Samuel Ward's, in the company of Miss Poward and Mr. Engene Oudin, then an amateur himself. Those who saw Miss Gregory then have but little fear that Mrs. Allen will not succeed in her more serious undertaking.

THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE.HUNTI. He Spent Wednesday in Looking Up To

and Down for a Dwelling. When the President and his wife were the city on Wednesday Mrs. Cleveland told intimate friend that they were both well pleased with New York as their future home. Cleveland has many friends in the city. hall with delight the prospect of having her here and of returning some of the courtes is which Mrs. Cleveland has extended to thom at the White House.

While Mrs. Cleveland was paying a few vis on Wednesday her husband was a busy man house hunting from one end of the city to the other. Mr. Francis L. Stetson of the law fire of which Mr. Cleveland is soon to become member, acted as his escort. Mr. Cleveland had his eye on some property in upper livrhad his eye on some property in upper Herlem, but he was dissuaded from going so far
up town. The furthest he got in his quest an
Wednesday was up to West Eighty-sixth strest,
where he looked at a fine new house that is
awaiting an occupant. A half dozen houses
were visited in the course of the atternoon, all
of which the President inspected thoroughy.
He wound up his house hunting on Eight
street, where he visited a house not far from
that of Mr. Richard Watson Giller of the tohary in this old-fashioned part of the town,
which is now filling up again with persons in
the fashion.

which is now filling up again with persons in the fashion.

Mr. Stetson said yesterday that the President had come to no decision as yet, but his tep r has given him a good idea of the different styles of both private and anartment houses in this city. Col. Dan Lamont, it is said, is negotiating for apartments in the Gerlach, in West Twenty-seventh street, for himself and family.

A OUEER GOVERNMENT DEPOSITORY.

A Young Woman Carrying the Receipts of

NORTH CREEK, Feb. 7 .- A Government Post Office Inspector has been here investigating Postmaster Sheehan's accounts, it being alleged that he was a defaulter. His necounts were really short \$1,000, which he has to-day made good. The investigation disclosed a peculiar state of affairs. Postmasiar Sheehan left the office in charge of his daughter. When it was found that the office was short in its accounts, an official came here and looked over the books. The books showed

looked over the books. The books showed that the money had been received. He was surprised, and asked where the money was. He was astounded when the girl took the meney from her dress pocket and said. "Why, here it is." Instead of sending it to Washington when it was received, she let the money accumulate, and intended to forward it in bulk. "Did you not think it dangerous to have that amount of money in the safey" inquired the representative of the Government.

"Yes," was the reply: "so I carried it in my dress pocket all the time."

The young woman had attended balls and parties, but never for a moment thought that she was taking any chances, and perhaps she wasn't. Everything was straightened out satisfactorily, but the Postmaster was cautioned to a more striet combliance with the regulations of the department, the detective being of opinion that the vaults of the Treasury was a safer place to keep Government moneys than a young lady's dress pocket.

3,500,000 BARRELS OF SURPLUS OIL. Producers Devising Plans to Dispose of it and Still Advance the Price.

OIL CITY, Pa., Feb. 7 .- The Advisory and Executive Committees of the Oil Producers' Association met to-day at the Arlington Hotel in this city. The meeting was called to formulate some plan of action for the disposal of the remaining 3.500,000 barrels of oil held under grant from the Standard Oil Company. The nembers of the committees were reticent as regards the details of the plan adopted, but it may be definitely stated that no oil will be sold at a price under \$1\$ abarrel, and if between now and June 15 the market navances to a point approximately near that figure, the oil will be held for a more substantial increase it value. The sale of the oil was vested in one individual, not a member of the committee, and who is satisfactory to both interests represented at the meeting. He name could not be ascertained, but he is said to be a man well known to the trade, and one whose position and character are such as to warrant a full carrying out of the plans of the committee.

The advance in the market to-day was based on a bellef that the action taken by the committees would lead to better prices. regards the details of the plan adopted, but

SUNBEAMS.

-It is said that the Empress Frederick has oliected 24.000 obituary notices of her husband.

-A Vermont man has started a newspaper -Twenty-five years ago a couple were married in Brockton, Mass, and lived together for Sve years. Then they separated and for twenty years have not lived together, but they have not been divorced.

The odd thing about it is that every Sunday night he calls on his wife and spends the evening with her. -A successful experiment has been made in the manner of shipping oranges from Florida north-ward, and now they are coming in bulk, instead of in boxes. The cars are lined with paper a little more than three feet high, the floor is covered with time mursh grass, thin board partitions are run through the car'ff more than one variety is shipped in the same car, and then the oranges are piled in, some three feet deep.

fair load is 42,000 oranges, on which to B. freight is \$155. -In a school district in London there were many parents who reported no children in their fami-iles. In order to find just how many children were thus being kept from school, the school authorities got two monkeys, dressed them gayly, put them in a wagon in which was a brase band, and started through the dis-trict. At once crowds of children appeared and followed the wagon, which drove to a neighboring park when the school officers went among the children dis-tributing candles and getting their names and addresses. They thus found that over sixty parents kept their children from school; and as a result of the monkeys. the brass band, and the candy about 200 little boys an

firls have been set at study. -The annual review of the American whale fishery shows that there are now 163 whaling vessels owned in this country, of which twenty are laid up at home. Prices for the products, except whalebone, have been low, and the right whating in the Arctic Ocean, have where most whalebone is taken, is becoming more and more popular, so that now about half the total tomage of whaling vessels is employed in that branch of the service. In the Arctic last summer there were fortyseven whalers, a slight increase from the year before, but their average catch was only about half that of 1987, Of the American whalers now in service, sixty three are owned in New Bedford, twenty-three in San Franch eight in Provincetown, four in Edgartown, three in Boston, three in New London, and two in Stonington.

-Several years ago an artist of Dresden persuaded a locksmith there to give up his trade and become an artists model. It was a good thing for the ocksmith, who is now the famous "muscle man of Bresien," whose magnificently developed body make him probably the most renowned model in the world. In order to preserve for future artists an exact dupilcate of his extraordinary figure the director of the Royal Saxon Povzellanfabrik at Meissen recently invited Lin there that a cast from life might be taken of the upper part of his body. It is said that "his muscular develop-ment is so complete and detailed that even the least and slightest cord of every muscle stands forth prominently, and his whole body looks as if it were woven to gether or platted like basket work. His muscles have such a hardness that they feel to the touch as if they

were carved in wood." -Mr. David Pulsifer of Boston has recently found among the old State archives the following letter written by Gen. Lafayette to the President of the Roston Town Council. It shows that the great French-man had not then entirely mastered the English language, but his heart was all right:

Sir. No beard of the Alliance 6th January 1778.

Sir. Norhing Could give me a greater bonor and pleasaster Satisfaction that the letter the honorable the Council of this state have been pleased to send me for the American Minister at versaling.—Noch marks of they approbate they exceed to me all the feelings of pleasairs and diratinade my heart is capable of—I beg. Sir. you would present them NY Must Respectful thanks and the assurances of MY elevial weberation for them and the warment seal for the Satisfactory now Represent—the Natice I bears to love these began to knew America, and heart seal for the Approx levelon in which they were almost incredible east love to be a part—the heroic and almost incredible east love who slowed the first respections Hapabican spirit which precipies, and that previous Hapabican spirit which precipies, and that yet mere animage is industing have inspired me with such a love and energial in the large of the satisfactory animage is industing have inspired me with the same animage is industing that it least to be Rank d among its most devoted sits of the Council of Masha. On board of the Alliance 6th January 1779.

that I dears to be servaint. It is excellently the president of the Council of Masha-shushed have pardon me. Sir. If I can't Rearrain the associations of an Affection my heart feels on well, and not to take up larger the precious matants of the Council. It will achority end in presenting to them and to you the assurances of the highest Respect I have the honor to

Your most obedient humble hervant LAPATETTE.

No Need to Send Out, From the Chicago Tribune.

The Rev. Mr. Behindthetimes - Emily, will you please send out and get a Sauday paper? I am er-preparing to breach a sermion against Sunday newspapers, and I must have one to

Sunday newspapers, and I must have one to examine.

Wits ito daughters up stairs: Girls, if you have floished looking through the bargain announcements in that paper, bring it Cewn.

Your father wants it.